

CICERO 2025 TOWN ELECTIONS

ANALYST MEMO: STRUCTURE, PATTERNS, AND IMPLICATIONS

Draft analytic memo - December 2025

0. Executive summary

This memo interprets the 2025 Town of Cicero election results as a data point in the town's evolving political structure. It assumes the reader already knows the basic outcomes (Santucci elected Supervisor; Daniel and Pardee elected Councilors; other town offices remaining Republican). The focus here is on diagnostic questions:

- What does the Supervisor result imply about partisan structure versus candidate effects?
- How does the election district map behave underneath the town-wide totals?
- How does Cicero compare to nearby towns such as Clay and Salina in 2025?
- What do the ballot questions suggest about underlying voter attitudes?

Key findings:

- Structurally Republican baseline: In the Town Councilor race, Republicans take roughly 69 percent of the combined council vote, indicating a town that leans heavily Republican in "default" conditions.
- Supervisor anomaly: Democrat Rob Santucci wins Supervisor by about 40 votes with roughly 50 percent of the two candidate vote. This is inconsistent with a 69 percent Republican baseline and implies heavy ticket splitting and strong candidate specific effects.
- Polarized but elastic map: Election District level data show clusters of strongly Republican districts, strongly Democratic or Santucci leaning districts, and a small set of swing or semi swing districts where modest vote shifts would have changed the outcome.
- Regional outlier: Compared with Clay and Salina, Cicero is distinct: it combines a Republican down ballot structure with a Democratic Supervisor win, rather than moving uniformly toward one party.
- Issue openness: Cicero voters show above average support for a technical state constitutional amendment (Proposal 1) and strong support for county term limits, consistent with a "good government" attitude that can cross party lines.

The remainder of this memo documents sources and expands on each of these points in more detail for future analytic work.

1. Data and sources

The analysis in this memo relies on the following public sources:

1. Onondaga County Board of Elections unofficial and certified results for the 2025 General Election, including town and county contests:

- <https://onondaga.gov/elections/>
- <https://ongov.resultscaster.com/>

2. Board of Elections spreadsheet "All Contests by District - Town of Cicero" (all Election District level results for Cicero), as of the final unofficial update on November 26, 2025 at 9:30 AM.

3. Eagle News / Star Review summary article listing unofficial results for Cicero, Clay, Liverpool, and Salina:

- <https://eaglenewsonline.com/publications/star-review/2025/11/12/159101/>

4. Coverage of Onondaga County Proposition One (term limits and four year terms for the County Legislature), including explanations of what the measure does:

- <https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/central-ny/decision-2025/2025/11/06/onondaga-county-legislature-term-limits>

- <https://cnycentral.com/news/local/onondaga-county-votes-for-term-limits-for-legislatures>

5. Official information and statewide reporting on New York State Proposal 1 (Mount Van Hoevenberg land swap):

- New York State Board of Elections proposal text:

<https://elections.ny.gov/2025-statewide-ballot-proposal>

- Statewide results and context:

<https://nyenr.elections.ny.gov/>

[https://ballotpedia.org/New_York_Proposal_1,_Use_of_Mount_Van_Hoevenberg_Sports_Complex_Land_and_Acquisition_of_2,500_Acres_for_Adirondack_Park_Amendment_\(2025\)](https://ballotpedia.org/New_York_Proposal_1,_Use_of_Mount_Van_Hoevenberg_Sports_Complex_Land_and_Acquisition_of_2,500_Acres_for_Adirondack_Park_Amendment_(2025))

<https://www.mynbc5.com/article/new-york-proposal-1-vote-results/69239336>

6. Additional countywide context on 2025 elections in Syracuse and Onondaga County:

- <https://dailyorange.com/2025/11/syracuse-2025-election-live-updates-results/>

- <https://www.waer.org/news/2025-11-04/live-updates-onondaga-county-election-tracker>

All numerical references to Cicero vote totals and margins are derived from the "All Contests by District - Town of Cicero" file unless otherwise noted.

2. Baseline structure: Republican town, Democratic Supervisor

Town wide totals confirm that Cicero remains structurally Republican in most contests, even as the Supervisor race moves differently.

Council baseline:

- In the Town Councilor race (vote for 2), the two Republican candidates, Chris Daniel and Jamie Loomis Pardee, together receive about 6,678 votes, versus about 2,944 for Democrat Beth Kramer, across all Election Districts.

- That implies a roughly 69 percent to 31 percent Republican to Democratic split in the combined council vote.

Supervisor result:

- In the Supervisor race, Democrat Rob Santucci defeats Republican incumbent Michael Aregano by roughly 40 votes, with each candidate near 50 percent of the two candidate vote and total ballots in the 6,000 range.

- The exact numbers matter mainly as confirmation of a narrow but clear win in a high turnout town wide contest.

Interpretation:

- The council result is a reasonably clean measure of the underlying partisan lean. There is no incumbent Supervisor on that line and no primary challenge; voters are effectively asked to pick two names on a party lined ballot.

- Against that backdrop, a Democrat should not be competitive in a generic Supervisor race. The fact that Santucci wins suggests unusually strong crossover voting by Republican

leaning voters.

- This is consistent with a story where local perceptions of the incumbent, candidate quality, and issue context dominate party label in the Supervisor contest.

Working assumption for future analysis:

- Treat Cicero as a town with a GOP leaning structural baseline on the order of 60 to 70 percent in "generic" contests, but with meaningful elasticity at the top of the ticket when candidate specific factors are strong.

3. Election District map: polarization plus elasticity

The Election District (ED) level returns show a map that is both polarized and elastic.

Polarization:

- Several EDs are decisively Aregano leaning in the Supervisor race (for example, Cicero 11th, 10th, 8th, and 2nd) with Aregano margins in the 30 to 60 vote range.
- Several EDs are decisively Santucci leaning (for example, Cicero 14th, 5th, 6th, and 22nd) with Santucci margins also in the 30 to 60 vote range.
- Turnout per ED in the Supervisor contest ranges from the 140s up to slightly over 300 ballots. In these units, a 50 vote margin is a large signal.

Elasticity:

- In many EDs, Republican council candidates enjoy large margins even where the Supervisor race is competitive or Santucci leaning. This implies that some voters are willing to cross party lines at the top while staying Republican down ballot.
- Given the ED level turnout, a shift of 15 to 25 voters in a handful of mid sized districts would have been sufficient to change the town wide Supervisor outcome.

Operational takeaway:

- The decisive "battleground" for future contests is not the town as a whole, but a small subset of EDs that are either competitive or exhibit large gaps between Supervisor and council behavior.
- For analytic work, these EDs are the natural targets for deeper profiling: demographics, housing stock, proximity to specific infrastructure, and local issues.

4. Regional comparison: Cicero versus Clay and Salina

The Eagle News / Star Review coverage provides a compact snapshot of how Cicero compares to neighboring towns in 2025.

Salina:

- Democrats win the Supervisor race and all four ward council seats by clear margins.
- Salina behaves like a solidly Democratic town both at the top and down ballot.

Clay:

- Republican Supervisor Damian Ulatowski runs unopposed and keeps the top office without a contest.

- Democrats sweep the contested Town Council seats by comfortable margins.
- Clay behaves like a split ticket town where the top job is locked in and competition is expressed in council races.

Cicero:

- Down ballot town offices (Clerk, Highway Superintendent, Receiver of Taxes, and Council) remain solidly Republican, with some offices unopposed.
- County Legislature races show both a strongly Republican district (Burtis in the 3rd) and Democratic strength in the Cicero portion of the 5th (Block's flipped seat).
- The Supervisor contest is the only place where a Democrat wins a town wide office, and does so by a narrow but significant margin.

Analytic characterization:

- Salina: Democratic structure, Democratic top line.
- Clay: Republican Supervisor, Democratic council; structure partially split.
- Cicero: Republican structure, Democratic Supervisor; the outlier combination.

For county wide analysis, Cicero's behavior is a key case study in how a GOP leaning town can still produce a Democratic Supervisor under the right conditions, while not flipping its overall partisan structure.

5. Ballot questions: evidence of "good government" attitudes

Cicero's votes on two 2025 ballot questions provide additional information about voter attitudes.

New York State Proposal 1 (Mount Van Hoevenberg land swap):

- Cicero voters support the amendment by roughly 60 percent to 40 percent.
- Statewide, Proposal 1 passes by a much narrower margin, slightly above 50 percent.
- Interpretation: Cicero is more willing than the state overall to support a technical constitutional change when framed as improving Olympic and recreational infrastructure while preserving or expanding net conservation land.

Onondaga County Proposition One (term limits and four year terms for County Legislature):

- Cicero voters support the measure by roughly 70 percent to 30 percent.
- County wide coverage emphasizes strong approval for term limits and longer terms across party lines.

Interpretation:

- Neither measure is simply a partisan proxy. Both are structural or "rules of the game" questions.
- Cicero's above average support for Proposal 1 and strong support for Proposition One are consistent with a voter base that is:
 - Skeptical of institutions but open to structural reforms,
 - Comfortable with technical changes if they are perceived as fair and transparent,
 - Willing to cross party lines on governance and process issues.

This aligns with the Supervisor result: a conservative leaning electorate that is still willing to deviate from its partisan default when it perceives a problem with the status

quo or an opportunity to improve governance.

6. Strategic takeaways and open questions

From an analyst perspective, the 2025 Cicero results suggest several medium term hypotheses and lines of inquiry:

1. Structural but elastic GOP town:

- Hypothesis: In the absence of strong candidate effects or local controversies, Cicero defaults to electing Republicans to most town offices by comfortable margins.
- Evidence: Council, Clerk, Highway, and Receiver races, plus the strength of Burtis in the 3rd Legislative District.
- Counterpoint: A Democrat can win the Supervisor's race with the right profile, message, and context.

2. Ticket splitting as a central feature, not a footnote:

- Hypothesis: A meaningful subset of Cicero voters are stable Republican down ballot but open to Democratic (or at least non incumbent) options at the top of the ticket.
- Evidence: Large gaps between Supervisor and council performance in multiple EDs.
- Analytic task: Quantify and map these gaps more precisely to identify which EDs contain the highest densities of split ticket voters.

3. Importance of ED level micro targeting:

- Hypothesis: Future close races will be decided by organizing and messaging in a small number of EDs where margins are modest and behavior is not firmly locked into one column.
- Evidence: Supervisor margin of roughly 40 votes in a town wide turnout near 6,000; multiple EDs where a 15 to 25 vote change would alter the outcome.
- Analytic task: Build ED profiles (demographics, housing, issue exposure) and link them to observed vote swings.

4. Governance and reform messaging:

- Hypothesis: Governance, ethics, and "rules of the game" themes are viable cross cutting messages in Cicero, given strong support for term limits and willingness to approve a technical state amendment.
- Evidence: Ballot question patterns plus the apparent willingness of voters to move away from an incumbent in the Supervisor race.
- Open question: How durable is this "good government" orientation in the face of nationalization of politics or highly polarized issue environments?

5. Establishing a baseline for 2027 and beyond:

- The 2025 Supervisor race can serve as a numerical baseline for future modeling: a data point for the gap between structural partisan lean and actual top line outcomes when candidate effects are strong.
- Future work should look at:
 - Changes in turnout levels by ED in subsequent cycles,
 - Whether the 69 percent to 31 percent council baseline holds or shifts,
 - How county and state races overlay on the same EDs.

This memo is intended as a technical starting point, not a final narrative. A separate

public facing interpretation would translate these findings into simpler language and visuals for a general audience, while this document should remain focused on structure, patterns, and hypotheses for analysts and organizers.